

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

March 13, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Woman leaves baby alone in bushes (0:11)

Setting the Scene



The bushes (groups of short, tree-like plants) where the child was found. (CBC file photo)

In Canada, parents have legal duties to their children. This means they are responsible by law for elements of their children's lives. If parents cannot follow these duties, it is considered a crime. One of these charges is failing to provide the necessities of life. This means that the parent does not give the child the food, water, shelter, medicine, or care that they need. Another charge is child abandonment. This means that the parent leaves the child alone for a long period or possibly forever. This is not safe or healthy for a child. Therefore, the law protects them.

Pre-listening Questions

What do children need in order to be healthy?

What do children need in order to be safe?

How can communities make sure children are cared for?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

facing (v.)	having to deal with an unpleasant situation
charges (n.)	police statements saying that someone has committed crimes
allegedly (adv.)	said but not proven
infant (n.)	a young child or baby
banging (v.)	hitting something loudly
nearby (adv.)	not far away
arrested (v.)	kept by police after committing a crime
released (v.)	allowed to leave the police station

1. Sometimes police need to figure out what happened before someone is _____. But, when police see the crime, or it's caught on camera, they can lay _____ on the criminal right away.
2. With new technology, there is often new crime. For the past several years, police have been _____ the challenge of how to do their work when crimes happen online.
3. When police do not know what happened in a crime, they can ask witnesses to report what they _____ saw. Sometimes, witnesses must go to the police station to give information before they are _____.
4. My apartment has thin walls, so we often hear noises _____. Sometimes we can hear an _____ crying in the park, or the garbage collectors _____ garbage cans.

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

under the influence – affected by alcohol or drugs

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_386xpo

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Multiple Choice

Read the following sentences. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. A woman is facing charges after allegedly leaving her baby in some bushes outside a _____.	a) Calgary home b) Calgary shop
2. Police were called to a home in the northeast at about _____ last Tuesday morning.	a) 2:30 b) 3:20
3. They were told a woman holding an infant was banging _____.	a) at the window b) at the door
4. When officers arrived they found the _____ but she did not have the _____ with her.	a) woman / baby b) baby / woman
5. They searched for the infant, and found the _____ baby.	a) 3-week-old b) 3-month-old
6. He was _____ in the snow and he wasn't dressed for the weather.	a) lying b) playing
7. The temperature was around _____ degrees that morning.	a) -50° b) -15°
8. Police arrested the woman, who may have been under the influence of _____.	a) health problems b) drugs or alcohol
9. The infant was taken to _____.	a) hospital b) home care
10. The infant was later released to _____ services.	a) health and protection b) child and family

Food for Thought

In your country, are there services to protect children?

In your country, what would happen to a parent who abandoned their child?

What should happen to the mother? Do you think she should be punished/helped?

News story #2 U of C campus group fires member because of email (1:24)

Setting the Scene



An image from the trailer to the film *The Red Pill*. (*The Red Pill*) (CBC file photo)

Canadian universities are home to several student groups. These groups can bring students together because of shared hobbies, interests, cultures, beliefs and politics. These groups allow students to connect with each other and work towards shared goals. However, different groups can have different ideas, beliefs and goals. Universities in Canada are public institutions. It is important for campus groups to be respectful of all students on campus.

Pre-listening Questions

Do you belong to any groups in your community, your city, or online?

Do you think student groups are good for students' school lives?

If you had the chance to start a group, what kind would you create?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonym</u>
_____	fired (v.)	a) argued, disputed
_____	director (n.)	b) film, report
_____	resigned (v.)	c) agreed, accepted
_____	controversial (adj.)	d) quit, left
_____	promoting (v.)	e) challenged, judged
_____	documentary (n.)	f) let go, dismissed
_____	swift (adj.)	g) symbol, design
_____	officially (adv.)	h) advertising, selling
_____	approved (v.)	i) fast, instant
_____	logo (n.)	j) leader, manager
_____	criticized (v.)	k) formally, properly

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

film screening – a presentation of a movie

co-sponsored – provided money for, with other groups

feminism – the support of women's rights so they are politically and socially equal to men

Wildrose Party – a very conservative party in the province of Alberta

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: <https://quizlet.com/386xvs>

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ A group at the University of Calgary has fired its fundraising director.
2. ____ Its president has also resigned.
3. ____ The group is called Wildrose on Campus.
4. ____ The group sent out an email promoting a film screening.
5. ____ The email was titled "Females are Cancer."
6. ____ It promoted the screening of an anti-feminist film.
7. ____ Reaction to the email was very fast.
8. ____ The campus group is not officially supported by the Wildrose Party.
9. ____ The Party wants the group to stop using its pictures and website.
10. ____ Brian Jean criticized the language in the documentary.

Food for thought

Do you think the group was right to fire the communications director?

What can the university do to make sure student groups are respectful?

In your country, do student political groups exist? Are they popular? Or, do you think they would be popular?

News story #3 U.S. President Trump signs new travel ban (2:30)

Setting the Scene



In New York City, people protest against President Trump's travel ban on citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries (Kathy Willens/Associated Press) (CBC file photo)

In January, U.S. President Donald Trump passed an order called "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." People from seven countries (Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen) were no longer allowed entry into the United States. Those who had work or study visas still had trouble entering the country. People in the United States and around the world have been protesting the ban. President Trump says this decision will help limit terrorist attacks and keep Americans safe.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you think of the travel ban?

Do you know anyone impacted by the U.S. travel ban? How can we help them?

Can you think of other ways that governments can reduce terrorism?

Vocabulary

Matching

To help you better understand the words in the news story, match the words with their definitions.
Answers are in the appendix.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	limiting (v.)	1. for a period of time that may not end
_____	ban (n.)	2. happening first
_____	visas (n.)	3. someone forced to leave their country
_____	original (adj.)	4. officially accepted
_____	affect (v.)	5. a rule saying something is not allowed
_____	suspension (n.)	6. to change or impact something
_____	refugee (n.)	7. took something away
_____	blocked (v.)	8. stopped something from moving or going by
_____	indefinitely (adv.)	9. documents allowing people to enter/leave a country
_____	lifted (v.)	10. the act of stopping something for a period of time
_____	approved (v.)	11. controlling and restricting what is allowed

Extra words to help you better understand the listening:

executive order – a rule created by the president, which has legal power

struck down – rejected

green card – a permit that allows a foreign-born person to live and work in the United States

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_386y6f

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Activity

Organizing

Read the list of types of people below. As you listen to the audio, put the people in the correct category in the table.

Answers are in the appendix.

CAN enter the United States	CANNOT enter the United States

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • people from Iran | • people from Sudan | • people with green cards |
| • people with visas | • non-refugees from Syria | • people from Somalia |
| • people from Libya | • approved refugees from | • people from Yemen |
| • people from Iraq | Syria | |

Food for thought

Why do you think a federal court rejected Trump's first travel ban?

People around the world are protesting American political decisions. Why do you think that is?

In your home country, are political protests common? If so, why do they happen?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MARCH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. I'm Shannon Scott and this is learning English with the CBC for March 13th, with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	A woman is facing charges after allegedly leaving her baby in some bushes outside a Calgary home. Police were called to a home in the northeast of the city at about 2:30 last Tuesday morning. They were told a woman, who was holding an infant, was at banging at the door, but no one inside knew who she was. When officers arrived they found the woman, but she did not have the baby with her. They started a search for the infant, and found the 3-month-old nearby. He was lying in the snow, and police say he wasn't dressed for the weather. The temperature was around minus 15 degrees that morning. Police arrested the woman, who they say may have been under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The infant was taken to hospital and later released to child and family services.	0:13
Story 2	A group at the University of Calgary has fired its communications director, and its Vice-President has resigned, after a controversial email was sent out promoting a film screening co-sponsored by the group. The email was sent by the group Wildrose on Campus. It was titled "Feminism is Cancer," and was promoting a screening of the anti-feminist documentary film "The Red Pill". There was a swift reaction to the email. After firing the communications director who sent the email, the group decided it would no longer co-sponsor the film's screening. The Wildrose Party said the group was not officially approved by the political party and has asked it to stop using its name and logo. Wildrose leader Brian Jean criticized the language in the email.	1:24
Story 3	Donald Trump has signed another executive order limiting travel for people from 6 Muslim-majority countries. This ban comes after his original travel ban was struck down by a US federal appeals court. Under the new order, no visas will be given to travelers from Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, and Libya for 90 days. Iraq was on the list of countries banned in the original order, but it has been removed from the list. The new order goes in to effect March 16th. The ban does not affect people who already have visas and valid green cards. The order also puts in place a 120 day suspension to the US refugee program, but Syrian refugees will no longer be blocked indefinitely after the suspension is lifted. Refugees who have already been approved for travel will be allowed into the country.	2:30

Answer keys

News story 1

Woman leaves baby alone in bushes (0:11)

Vocabulary

1. Sometimes police need to figure out what happened before someone is arrested. But, when police see the crime, or it's caught on camera, they can lay charges on the criminal right away.
2. With new technology, there is often new crime. For the past several years, police have been facing the challenge of how to do their work when crimes happen online.
3. When police do not know what happened in a crime, they can ask witnesses to report what they allegedly saw. Sometimes, witnesses must go to the police station to give information before they are released.
4. My apartment has thin walls, so we often hear noises nearby. Sometimes we can hear an infant crying in the park, or the garbage collectors banging garbage cans.

Listening

1. A woman is facing charges after allegedly leaving her baby in some bushes outside a _____.	a) Calgary home b) Calgary shop
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9. The infant was taken to _____.	a) hospital b) home care
10. The infant was later released to _____ services.	a) health and protection b) child and family

News story 2

U of C campus group fires member because of email (1:24)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary Word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>f</u>	fired (v.)	a) argued, disputed
<u>i</u>	director (n.)	b) film, report
<u>d</u>	resigned (v.)	c) agreed, accepted
<u>a</u>	controversial (adj.)	d) quit, left
<u>h</u>	promoting (v.)	e) challenged, judged
<u>b</u>	documentary (n.)	f) let go, dismissed
<u>i</u>	swift (adj.)	g) symbol, design
<u>k</u>	officially (adv.)	h) advertising, selling
<u>c</u>	approved (v.)	i) fast, instant
<u>g</u>	logo (n.)	j) leader, manager
<u>e</u>	criticized (v.)	k) formally, properly

Listening

1. F A group at the University of Calgary has fired its fundraising director.
2. F Its president has also resigned.
3. T The group is called Wildrose on Campus.
4. T The group sent out an email promoting a film screening.
5. F The email was titled "Females are Cancer."
6. T It promoted the screening of an anti-feminist film.
7. T Reaction to the email was very fast.
8. T The campus group is not officially supported by the Wildrose Party.
9. F The Party wants the group to stop using its pictures and website.
10. F Brian Jean criticized the language in the documentary.

News story 3**U.S. President Trump signs new travel ban (2:30)****Vocabulary**

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
<u>11</u>	limiting (v.)	1. for a period of time that may not end
<u>5</u>	ban (n.)	2. happening first
<u>9</u>	visas (n.)	3. someone forced to leave their country
<u>2</u>	original (adj.)	4. officially accepted
<u>6</u>	affect (v.)	5. a rule saying something is not allowed
<u>10</u>	suspension (n.)	6. to change or impact something
<u>3</u>	refugee (n.)	7. took something away
<u>8</u>	blocked (v.)	8. stopped something from moving or going by
<u>1</u>	indefinitely (adv.)	9. documents allowing people to enter/leave a country
<u>7</u>	lifted (v.)	10. the act of stopping something for a period of time
<u>4</u>	approved (v.)	11. controlling and restricting what is allowed

Listening

CAN enter the United States	CANNOT enter the United States
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• people from Iraq• people with visas• people with green cards• approved refugees from Syria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• people from Iran• people from Libya• people from Somalia• people from Yemen• people from Sudan• non-refugees from Syria